



December 20, 2004



Alleged gun shot in Central Falls leads to a federal firearms charge

Louis Segalla, of Pawtucket, who allegedly fired a gunshot outside 97 Sylvian Street, Central Falls, in May, has been charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente, Thomas Wlodyka, Acting Resident Agent in Charge of the Providence Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Central Falls Police Chief Joseph Moran jointly announced a federal complaint, which was filed on November 15 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

According to an ATF affidavit, shortly after midnight on May 14, Central Falls Police were called to 97 Sylvian Street by a report that a gunshot had been fired. Two women who lived at that address said that Segalla had threatened one of them, had brandished a gun, had fired a shot in their direction, and had then fled.

Police officers found Segalla in a nearby alleyway and found a silver, .25 caliber pistol nearby. He was arrested on state charges and a joint federal-state review of the case resulted in the federal charge.

Segalla, 30, of 47 Allen Avenue, Pawtucket, appeared today before Magistrate Judge Lincoln D. Almond, who ordered him detained pending further proceedings. A

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complaint is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The charge against Segalla is a felony and is therefore subject to review by a federal grand jury.

Central Falls Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee H. Vilker is prosecuting it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 550 years in federal prison.

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Contact: 401-709 5032

Thomas.connell@usdoj.gov